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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 005030

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/SCE, EUR/RPM

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION LAUNCHES OPERATION  
ALTHEA

REF: USUN 2630

[1](#)1. (U) Under the provisions of the Treaty of the European Union, the Council of the European Union on November 23 launched Operation Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The EU Operation Commander was authorized to release the activation order (ACTORD) in order to execute the deployment of the forces and start execution of the mission on December 2, [1](#)2004. The decision will remain in force until the Council decides to end the mission. (NOTE: UNSCR 1575 (see below) has given the mission a mandate for "an initial planned period of twelve months." END NOTE.)

[1](#)2. (U) The launch of Operation Althea is based on a Council Joint Action (decision of Heads of State and Government) from July 2004. The UN Security Council on November 22 unanimously adopted UNSCR 1575 authorizing an EU-led military mission and a residual NATO Headquarters presence (reftel). High Representative Solana will be in Sarajevo December 2 to participate in ceremonies celebrating the end of SFOR and the beginning of the EU's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) mission "Operation Althea."

SCHNABEL